

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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Court documents associated with this case may be downloaded from the district's Web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/parker_complaint.pdf
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/parker_charge.pdf
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/parker_affidavit.pdf

TWO CALIFORNIA MEN CHARGED IN LARGEST-EVER SEIZURE OF PCP, COCAINE IN HIGHWAY STOP

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two California men were charged in federal court today with possession with intent to distribute large quantities of PCP and cocaine, following the seizure of large quantities of the illegal narcotics in a highway stop in Newton County, Mo. Schlozman noted that this is the largest recorded seizure of PCP in the United States.

Marzett L. Parker, 35, and **Odell M. Edwards**, 36, both of Fontana, were charged in a two-count criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

Count One of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Parker** and **Edwards** were in possession with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of phencyclidine (PCP). Count Two of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Parker** and **Edwards** were in possession with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper stopped a 2000 Peterbelt tractor unit driven by **Parker**, which was pulling a 1994 Boyd car-hauler trailer containing three vehicles, for a commercial motor vehicle compliance inspection at approximately 8 p.m. Thursday at the D-4 East Weigh Station on Interstate 44 in Newton County. **Edwards** was a passenger in the vehicle.

During the inspection, the affidavit says, the officer became suspicious about the purpose of the travel. During a search of the tractor-trailer unit and vehicles, officers found 40 one-gallon-

sized tin cans containing phencyclidine (PCP). Those cans were placed in two cardboard boxes, which were in a 2001 Ford Excursion located on the trailer. Officers also found 12 kilogramsized packages of cocaine in the dash of a 1995 Nissan Quest van, which was also located on the trailer.

Schlozman cautioned that the charges contained in the complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html